

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested for claims 13-32.

Initially, the undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Pilkington for his time, attention, and consideration during the interview that was conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 10, 2010, in connection with the above-identified application.

Claims 13-19 and 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE2431935 (*Jelenak*). Claims 13, 14, 20, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 10039768 (*Groche*). Claims 21 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Groche* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,242,221 to *Rothowe*. Claims 22, 23, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Groche* in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,757,051 to *Wilmer*.

During the interview, it was proposed that claim 13 be amended to recite that the profiling gaps method be performed in the longitudinal edge of the piece of sheet metal to form two projecting edge flanges "so that at least one surface of the edge flanges has a greater hardness than a portion of the piece of sheet metal on which no profiling gaps method has been performed" to better clarify the structural distinction between the present invention and the applied art. It is understood that the Examiner agrees that the claims, if so amended, would be considered to be patentably distinguished over the art of record.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, claims 13-32, are in condition for allowance. Allowance is cordially urged.

To the extent that any extensions of time are necessary in connection with this application it is requested that there be a standing petition for extension of time and that any additional fees

that are required, or refunds due, in connection with this or any other paper filed in connection with this application be charged to Deposit Account 503015.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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